



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY WASHINGTON

February 1997



Message from the Secretary of the Army

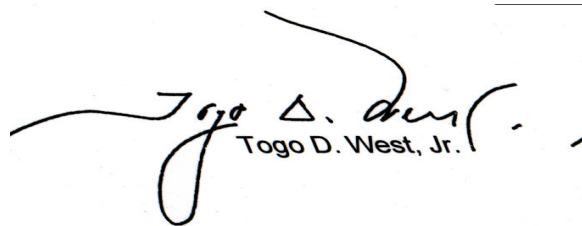
For 221 years, the United States Army has served the nation's interest at home and abroad. The Army continues that tradition of service today, preparing to meet the challenges of the 21st Century, ensuring regional stability in Bosnia, deterring aggression on the Korean Peninsula, and working with new democratic allies to promote peace throughout the world. As always, the Army stands ready to assist civilian agencies and local governments in times of domestic emergency or natural disaster.

In all these endeavors, our Army relies on its most cherished asset: its soldiers. Our soldiers require and deserve modern equipment, realistic training, and imaginative leadership. These imperatives deliver a highly disciplined, combat-ready United States Army -- the best land combat force in the world.

To be the best costs money. By spending our resources carefully, we earn a reputation for wise financial stewardship. More importantly, we reap the profits of sound financial management; new and better equipment for our combat units; increased efficiency in our recruiting efforts; enhanced performance in our support operations; and improved quality of life for our soldiers and their families.

This Annual Financial Report captures our successful effort to manage all of our resources in an integrated, efficient manner. The Army has made great strides in financial management reform, and we take pride in our ability to implement business practices in a unique organization, one entrusted with the nation's defense.

We will continue our work to improve our successful management of resources and to amplify the United States Army's reputation as a financial management leader in the Department of Defense. Our soldiers, and our nation, deserve nothing less.



Togo D. West, Jr.

[Next](#)[TOC](#)[Previous](#)